

Lifting the cross-ownership ban to  
allow further media consolidation will not serve the public interest.

Besides the wholly predictable result of a single company controlling a town's TV stations, radio stations, cable company and only newspaper, critics warn that elimination of this rule will essentially signal the absorption of the newspaper business into the television industry, with a negative impact on the quality of print journalism. Newspaper companies "see savings in news gathering by combining with TV stations as a big plus," an industry analyst told the L.A. Times (9/14/01), giving an indication that the newly merged megacompanies would provide communities with less news, not more.

Personally, I refuse to watch any news on television. I refuse to read my city's daily newspaper. All of my news comes from our city's alternative weekly paper, National Public Radio and selected email news alerts. The climate for news companies is currently so lacking in thought that I refuse to consume it. Please don't make it worse!